

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

APRIL 19, 2005

The Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC) was formed to provide public recreation and wildlife habitat through the acquisition and management of land within its boundaries, and is charged with protecting a small watershed with wetland habitat, water quality and recreational values. The area under BHC's jurisdiction is approximately two square miles and is located six miles from downtown Los Angeles, with boundaries that include the 500-acre Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area. Existing law provides that the Conservancy will remain in effect until January 1, 2008.

The Conservancy is working to acquire areas for the purpose of preserving open space in the vicinity of the Baldwin Hills. Baldwin Hills has over 400 active oil wells currently in operation, all of which are inside BHC's proposed land acquisition boundaries. It is important that a thorough appraisal and assessment of property interests and liabilities is conducted although expertise and information on oil resources is limited based on BHC's current board. Assembly Bill 856 proposes that the Director (or his designee) of the California Department of Conservation (DOC) Division of Oil

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Gas and Geothermal Resources, which oversees the drilling, operation, maintenance and plugging and abandonment of oil, natural gas and geothermal wells, be added as a nonvoting member to the BHC board in order to assist and advise on land acquisitions.

AB 856 also extends the sunset date of the Conservancy three years to January 1, 2011, which would allow the BHC to apply the latest research and work with willing sellers through proper asset valuation and to complete key negotiations with the land management entity responsible for oil production.

Other provisions of the bill include adjusting the meetings of the Board to be subject to the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act which governs meetings of state agencies; and that the maintenance of liability insurance be repealed as the BHC and its employees are already protected by the immunities provided by the California Tort Claims Act.

I feel that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Los Angeles County that these adjustments be enacted to develop this last remaining open space near downtown Los Angeles for public recreation and open space preservation.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that this Board go on record in support of Assembly Bill 856; and further, that our legislative representatives in Sacramento be instructed to work towards its passage.

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